(b) what are the details thereof year-wise and the interests accrued thereon;

(c) whether any reserve funds have been created in Provident Fund Scheme, if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the amount of reserve funds lying with Regional Fund Commissioners in their respective regions utilized so far, year-wise and region-wise, during the last three years; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of Provident Fund Scheme in view of the large scale comp'a'nts against delay in distribution of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on The table of the House.

## Appeal by Human Rights Organisation for Abolition of Child Labour

768. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 55 Human Rights Organisations from various parts of the world have appealed for abolition of child labour in India; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude to which certain Human Rights organisations are affiliated have made an appeal for liberation of employed children.

(b) Total liberation of child labour in the near future being considered not feasible due to socio-economic conditions, the policy of the Government is its progressive elimination. This is sought to be achieved through legislation, better enforcement of laws relating to child labour, welfare programmes, greater awareness against employment of childden amongst parents, employers and society at large and extension of education to increasing number of children.

## ILO Report on forced Labour in India

769. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attenion has been drawn to the 1993 World Labour Report of ILO which States that forced labour is widespread in India;

(b) if so, what are the main observations made therein;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve India's image on the labour front?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The ILO's World Labour Report, 1993 has referred to the divergent estimates of bonded labour, their condition, particularly the involvement of children and the measures undertaken by the Government to tackel the problem in India.

(c) The State Governments who are responsible for identifying, releasing and rehabilitating bonded labour have been urged to implement the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 more vigorously. The Central Government is monitoring the implementation on a monthly basis.

(d) India's image on the labour front is fairly positive. It is a member of